THE WORLD'S LARGEST The 1954-built Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center has acres of space for sports events, conventions.

1956—The Jeffersonville Quartermaster Depot, opened in 1864, was closed.

1958—Shippingport, important as an unloading center in the steamboat era, was cleared of remaining residents as the enlarging of the Portland Canal was started.

1961—Interstate Route 64 was opened from Louisville to Frankfort.

1962—Sherman Minton Memorial Bridge between Louisville and New Albany was opened.

The "800," a 29-story apartment development at 4th and York, was started.

The industrial growth that took place in the dynamic decade covered by the 1950's, and which has continued since, required electric power, power that was waiting when and where needed. So, as the city and its electric needs grew, the Louisville Gas and Electric Company, as a service agency, also grew. In fact, the company has grown more in the last 25 years than in the preceding century.

Again statistics perhaps are the simplest way to mirror the full growth. Since 1937, the Louisville Gas and Electric Company has installed new generators at three locations—Canal (20th and Northwestern Parkway), Paddy's Run (on the river southwest of the city) and Cane Run (3 miles downstream). These stations have a capacity of 856,000 kilowatts.

All in all, more than $170,000,000 has been invested in the past 10 years in new facilities, and an additional $100,000,000 is budgeted for the next five years.

During this period of great emphasis on production of electricity, Louisville's gas needs were not forgotten. Not only was the quantity of gas available increased, but prices were kept among the lowest in the country.

This was primarily because the company continued to expand underground storage facilities, a move in which it had been a pioneer. In 1941, a second storage area, Doe Run, was opened, and in 1959 the Magnolia area was put into service to store gas brought in the year around from the Texas and Louisiana fields.

Doe Run is located 30 miles southwest of Louisville, and Magnolia is about 60 miles south.

As a result of these new storage areas, whereas in 1941 the company had space to store only 400,000,000 cubic feet of gas, today it can store 11,000,000,000 cubic feet.

The significance of that is this: the company can contract with producers to buy the same amount of gas each day, summer or winter, at a resultant saving which is passed on to consumers. Gas not needed in summer simply is stored underground for use in winter.

As abundant, low-cost gas has been made available, Louisville has become a cleaner city. In the early 1940's, only 12 percent of Louisville homes were heated by gas; the vast majority used coal, and soot and ash from the thousands of residential furnaces spread a dirty film over the city. That has changed noticeably now that 83 percent of the homes heat by gas.

And so it is with a note of confidence in the future that the Louisville Gas and Electric Company adds another candle—the 125th—on its birthday cake.

The city it serves today is the hub of a modern metropolitan area of more than 750,000 residents; it has become one of the top industrial centers in America, the world's leader in production of bourbon whisky, cooperate items, materials for the blind, bathtubs and baseball bats. It is the home of the world's largest plants producing wheel tractors, home appliances, deep-forged steel valves, neoprene synthetic rubber, air filtering equipment, welding fittings and flanges for industrial piping systems, and solid maple and cherry furniture. The city is second in the country in cigarette making, synthetic rubber and paint and varnish production, and the leader in the South in printing, bedding, meat packing, automobile assembly and specialty catalysts, among other things.

All of which isn't bad for a city founded originally on a tiny river island which disappeared into the stream long years ago.

A lot of water has passed over the falls of the Ohio in the 125 years since the Louisville Gas and Water Company, the forefather of the Louisville Gas and Electric Company, was chartered to serve the rambunctious village with the growing pains standing at the edge of the frontier.

Good times and bad, wars and floods have turned up in the rich history of Louisville. But the significant point is this:

The city has shown its courage and character by coming back stronger after every set back.

And that is the mark of a solid, substantial community.